

Income-tax on Leladayam.

328. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are aware of the Chief Court decision to the effect that the collection of income-tax on *Leladayam* is illegal;

(2) what is the amount collected by the Income-tax Department under the above head;

(3) whether they have refunded any amount collected by them under this head?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—(1) Yes.

(2) It is not possible to ascertain the amount as no tax is calculated separately under this head.

(3) It has been refunded to those who have sought their remedy in the manner provided for in the Income-tax Regulation.

Statistics—unscientific and insanitary huts.

329. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—With reference to Question No. 84, dated 1st August 1933, regarding the large number of un-scientific, insanitary human-habited huts in the State, will the Government state:—

(a) the reasons for their non-possession of the statistics on such huts;

(b) the length of notice the Government had to answer the question under reference;

(c) whether any attempt has been made to collect the statistics required in the question under reference ever after 1st August 1933 and the number of months that has elapsed between now and 1st August 1933;

(d) whether the information required cannot now be supplied and if it can be, what it is;

(e) what they intend to do to improve the actuals of our housing defects?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—(a) There was no necessity to prepare such statistics, nor is it possible to prepare them.

(b) About 1 year and 9 months.

(c) No. About 1 year and 6 months.

(d) No.

(e) The question is unintelligible.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—(a) May I know, Sir, the reasons which prompted the Hon'ble Member to think that there is no necessity whatsoever to prepare statistics on the number of un-scientific and insanitary huts inhabited by human beings?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—There are two parts to the answer. There can be a necessity only with respect to a possible thing. That is elementary. Government also takes the view that it is impossible to prepare statistics on these matters.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Why impossible ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Because in the absence of clear definitions as to scientific huts, it will be very difficult to find out whether a hut conforms to the requirements of science. Then with respect to the insanitary human habited huts obviously it requires an entry into these huts to find out whether the huts are kept in a sanitary condition. These are the two difficulties which stood in the way of Government in preparing such statistics. In the absence of a power in the Government to enter into huts to find whether the huts are kept in a scientific, sanitary basis, it is very difficult to prepare statistics.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— If the Government is going to ask the interpretation of the English work, it is very difficult. The Hon'ble Member must know these things, which everybody knows.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— The Hon'ble Member must realise that there is some difficulty. I am not making light of the whole question. But the Hon'ble Member must himself realise that when he merely says to take statistics of insanitary, unscientific houses, we are in a region of doubt. When exactly the hut becomes scientific is a matter for conjecture.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— There was a description given of a large number of huts prevalent in the State by the Hon'ble Member's predecessor in the answer under reference. He had described the nature of the huts, the whole cost would come to 4 or 5 rupees. He had also given material to show that there was insanitary and unscientific huts here which a progressive Government should not tolerate. Now, Sir, I am asking whether this is not a subject which is one of the most anxious concerns of any people-loving Government?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— If people live in insanitary huts it is a matter for the consideration of the Government. But the question here is whether statistics have been prepared. I am not at all denying the fact that if people are living in insanitary huts, it is the duty of the Government to see that every facilities are afforded to them in the matter of sanitation.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Without collecting statistics how can we move in the matter ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— In the first place we must know what exactly a scientific hut means and when exactly it is unscientific.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— It is your duty to know. There is your Public Health Department.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— They found it very difficult to say what is meant by a scientific hut.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Am I to take it Sir, that the Government will seriously consider what they can in this matter?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— If the Government can get a working definition of a scientific hut, they can know how many such huts there are.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Obviously, a scientific hut is a hut, built on hygienic lines on common sanitary principles.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— There is no statutory law enabling the Government to enter into the huts to know whether a house is sanitarily kept or not. But a law forcing the Government to enter the huts for exploring whether they are living a scientific life and whether they are keeping sanitation will be a violent law.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri:— By sanitation the member means hygienic huts, well ventilated, in construction.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— If it is based on ventilation there will be ventilation in plenty in every hut. But it is very difficult to take statistics.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— With reference to answers contained in (b), (c), and (d) does the Hon'ble member apart from joking, seriously thinks that these answers constitute the characteristics of a responsible Government.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— I think a responsible Government which feels that these statistics cannot be prepared, should answer in the way which it has done.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Does the Hon'ble member promise that he will make an honest attempt to supply statistics.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Given a working definition of unscientific and insanitary, Government can make an attempt if the methods are feasible and definitions clear.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— With reference to answer (c) Sir, will every question that might require some painstaking on the part of the Government be invariably an unintelligible one?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— It is a question of sheer inability to know what is meant by 'improving the actuals of our housing defects'. In spite of taking much pains they have not been able to know the meaning of these words, actual of a defect.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— If the question was what they intend to do to reduce the large number of unscientific and insanitary houses would they have been intelligible?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—If a question is put I shall answer.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Do not the Government think that unintelligible questions should be referred back?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—Times without number we have answered that question. There is no provision to do that.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—If there is no provision you should make some provisions.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—The question is one for eliciting information and not upon what the Government ought to do. That does not arise as a supplementary question here.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—What is the Government position? Will they make an attempt to see that in future unintelligible questions will be sent back to the members so that it may be returned again in an intelligible manner?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—I maintain that it is not a supplementary question.

President:—It is not a supplementary question.

Statistics—pattadars in the State.

330. Mr. A. Sivaraman Menon:—Will the Government be pleased to state number of pattadars in the State owning land to the extent of

- (a) 1 acre and less;
- (b) more than one acre but less than 5 acres;
- (c) more than 5 acres but less than 10 acres;
- (d) more than 10 acres but less than 50 acres;
- (e) more than 50 acres but less than 100 acres; and
- (f) 100 acres and above?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—

(a)	44,612
(b)	28,371
(c)	5,695
(d)	5,628
(e)	978
(f)	782

Total 86,066

Statistics—suits.

331. Mr. A. Sivarama Menon:—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of